



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE DEPORTS MS-13 GANG MEMBER CONVICTED OF KIDNAPPING

BLOOMINGTON, Minn.—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention and removal officers deported an MS-13 gang member to Honduras today who was convicted of kidnapping a Minneapolis woman.

Jose Raul Maldonado-Zelaya, 18, illegally entered the United States from Mexico in 2000. On Oct. 5, 2003, he grabbed a woman who was jogging with her dog on Kenwood Parkway in Minneapolis, forced her to the ground face-down and straddled her, covering her mouth with his hand, according to court documents. The woman was eventually able to free one arm and bite Maldonado-Zelaya's hand; when he pulled away, she kicked and screamed for help. Maldonado-Zelaya fled on a bicycle and was arrested by Minneapolis Police officers a short time later as he spoke to another woman walking a dog.



Maldonado-Zelaya was charged and convicted of kidnapping and false imprisonment in Hennepin County District Court. He was given a 21-month stayed adult prison sentence in January 2004 and was placed on Extended Juvenile Jurisdiction probation. As part of his probation, Maldonado-Zelaya was ordered to complete a program for juveniles at the Red Wing Correctional Facility.

District Judge Warren R. Sagstuen revoked Maldonado-Zelaya's probation in September after finding that while at the Red Wing facility he had threatened peers and staff, assaulted staff, engaged in inappropriate sexual behavior, and failed to register with the state as a predatory offender. Judge Sagstuen then executed the adult prison sentence.

Maldonado-Zelaya was incarcerated in the Minnesota Correctional Facility in St. Cloud, where he spent his entire six-month stay in segregation because of aggressive and disruptive behavior. ICE special agents encountered him there and placed a “detainer” on him, to ensure that prison officials notified ICE prior to Maldonado-Zelaya’s release. ICE routinely checks jails and prisons nationwide to locate, identify and then deport criminal aliens.

“This criminal illegal alien has done too much damage here,” said Special Agent-in-Charge Mark Cangemi of the ICE office in Bloomington. “We make a priority of finding, arresting and deporting those who bring harm to our communities.”

During an interview conducted by an ICE special agent, Maldonado-Zelaya admitted he is a member of the violent MS-13, or Mara Salvatrucha, gang. He said he joined the gang while serving a three-year sentence in a juvenile prison in Mexico after attacking someone with a machete.

Fighting the MS-13 organization proliferation is a public safety priority for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which is why ICE launched Operation Community Shield in March. Operation Community Shield is a national law enforcement initiative that brings all of ICE’s law enforcement powers to bear in the fight against MS-13.

The MS-13 gang originated in Los Angeles, its original membership drawn from natives of El Salvador who came to the United States in the 1980s. Threat assessments conducted by ICE field offices indicate that a large number of current MS-13 members are foreign-born and in the country illegally.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.